WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

High rate of freight charges for fruits/vegetables for Gulf Countries by Air India

*24. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India charges Rs. 16 per Kg, for transporting fruits and vegetables to Gulf countries whereas Pakistan International Airways charges only half the rates for the same purpose; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to reduce the rates?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIA-TlOr. (SHRI MOT1 LAL VQRA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Railway accident near Shambhu in Punjab

*26. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a railway accident took place near Shambhu in Pun jab on December 16, 1987 resulting in the death of 10 persons and in juries to many;

(b) whether the causes of that accident were investigated, if so, the results thereof; and

(c) what are the details of the compensation and relief provided to the next of kin of the deceased and to the persons injured, in the acci dent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the provisional findings of the Commissioner of Railway Safety Northern Circle, working under the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the accident occurred due to improper taking off of the Down despatch signal of the station

(c) Ex-gratia relief at the rate of Rs. 5,000/- each to the next of kin of the identified dead. Rs. 2,000 each to the grievously injured and Rs. 2501- each to those with simple injuries was given Compensation will be awarded by the *Ad-hoc* Claims Commissioner being appointed for the purpose

Import of Helicopters from France

*27. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that six helicopters were imported from France some weeks ago if so, for what purpose; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that M/s. Pawan Hans Corporation have been asked to take them over; and-if so, for what reasons?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE AND THE MINISTER OF CTVIL AVIATION (SHRI MOTI LAL VORA): (a) Six SA365N Dauphin 2 helicopters in the-executive configuration have been imported for meeting the VIP transportation requirements.

(b) The contract for the purchase of 27 SA365N Dauphin 2 helicopters, including six in the VIP standard of